Case 2:23-cv-10353-MAG-APP ECF No. 1, PageID.1 Filed 02/09/23 Page 1 of 16

JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDAN	DEFENDANTS							
SHELLY ANN-N (b) County of Residence of	THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT OF MICHIGAN, WAYNE COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT, BENITA M. County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Wayne								
(E.	NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.								
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Attorneys (If Known)								
Paul C. Louisell	Not Known								
22805 Kelly Rd.									
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT MICHIGAN

SHELLY ANN-MARIE PAYNE, Plaintiff

٧.

Case No. 22-

-CD

HON.

THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COURT OF MICHIGAN, WAYNE
COUNTY FRIEND OF THE COURT,
BENITA M. CHEATOM, AND
ZENELL BROWN, AND ERIN
LINCOLN, Jointly and severally,
Defendants.

PAUL C. LOUISELL P27152
PAUL C. LOUISELL PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
22805 Kelly Road
Eastpointe, Michigan 48021
586-859-0118
F: 859-267-0305

Paul@louisellPLLC.com

PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

There is no other civil action between these parties arising out of the same transaction or occurrence, as alleged in this Complaint, pending in this Court, nor has any such action been previously filed and dismissed or transferred after having been assigned to a judge, nor do I know of any other civil action, not between the parties, arising out of the same transaction or occurrence, as alleged in this complaint that is either pending or was previously filed and dismissed, transferred, or otherwise disposed of after having been assigned to a judge in this Court.

Plaintiff, SHELLY ANN-MARIE PAYNE, by and through her attorney, Paul C. Louisell, submits her Complaint as follows: [This Complaint is brought for the joint and several liability of all defendants, for the disability discrimination, state and federal, age discrimination under the ELCRA, violations of the FMLA, all against Plaintiff, and intentional by defendants].

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. Plaintiff (date of birth: May 12, 1955) was hired by defendant in August 1986 and worked for defendants until July 7, 2022, as a Senior Staff Attorney, she was an excellent decorated employee. Where Plaintiff worked at the Wayne County Friend of the Court, Detroit, Michigan. Any discipline of Plaintiff by defendants was retaliatory, bogus, a sham, and also resulted in failures by defendants to properly promote Plaintiff, in extension of and retaliation for the complaints by Plaintiff. Defendants actions were intentional and disparate.
- 2. Plaintiff is diagnosed with medical/physical conditions-asthma, severe allergies, breathing deficient condition. Plaintiff requested to be removed from the Penobscot Building (which is a haven of allergens and toxins) to the Friend of the Court office in the City County Bldg., where other younger employees were allowed to go on request.

- 3. Defendant refused Plaintiff's request for reasonable accommodation. Defendant did not offer any alternative accommodations to allow Plaintiff to return to work. Individual defendants were supervisors and decision makers over Plaintiff, and individually and in concert, vicariously, and jointly and severally with the employer, violated the rights of Plaintiff and the law and statutes herein. All are located in Wayne County, Michigan, at all times relevant hereto.
- 4. When this action was commenced, defendant had refused to return Plaintiff to work in any capacity. Retaliation, intentional violations, combined with the other discriminations and violations below caused Plaintiff permanent damages.

COUNT I-VIOLATION OF THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- 5. This suit is brought and jurisdiction lies pursuant to Section 107 (a) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 USC 12117, which incorporates by reference Section 706 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 USC 2000 e-5. Defendants are jointly and severally responsible for all acts.
- 6. Plaintiff filed a charge of employment discrimination on the basis of disability with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) within 300 days of the commission of the unlawful employment practice alleged in this claim.

- 7. Plaintiff received notification of the right-to-sue letter from the EEOC on November 16, 2022 and has filed this complaint within 90 days of receiving the EEOC's notice of the right to sue.
- 8. Plaintiff is a citizen of the United States and the State of Michigan and resides in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Plaintiff worked at all times in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan as Senior Staff Attorney for the Friend of the Court, a division of the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan. All defendants are employers of Plaintiff, and all employed Plaintiff in Wayne County, Michigan.
- 9. All the discriminatory employment practices alleged in this complaint occurred within Wayne County in the State of Michigan.
- 10. Defendant, Wayne County Friend of the Court a division of the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan. Defendant, Third Judicial Circuit is a Circuit Court in the County of Wayne in Michigan. Defendant, Benita M. Cheatom is Human Resources Supervisor in the Wayne County Friend of the Court division of the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan. Zanell Brown is Circuit Court Administrator in the Wayne County Friend of the Court division of the Third Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan. Erin Lincoln is Friend of the Court Supervisor in the Wayne County Friend of the Court division of the

Third Judicial Circuit Court, Wayne County, Michigan. All defendants work/located in the City of Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, and were employers/supervisors/wrongful decision makers over Plaintiff.

- 11. Defendant (s) are persons/entities within the meaning of Section 101 (7) of the ADA, 42 USC 12111 (7), and Section 701 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC 2000e.
- 12. Defendants meet all of the requirements for employer status under the ADA, 42 USC 12111 (5) (a).
- 13. At all times, Plaintiff was an individual with a disability within the meaning of Section 3(2) of the ADA, 42 USC 12102 (2). Specifically, Plaintiff has a physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of her major life activities, has a record of the impairment, and is regarded by Defendant as having the impairment. Plaintiff was assigned to the Penobscot Building and Lincoln Hall of Justice-which were known filled with rats, cockroaches, allergens, feces, waste, decreased air quality in work areas of Plaintiff and others; there were overwhelming harmful exposures to the above, leading to severe aggravation of Plaintiff's known condition.
- 14. Plaintiff is a qualified individual with a disability as that term is defined in the ADA, 42 USC 12111 (8). Plaintiff is an individual who, with reasonable

accommodation, can perform the essential functions of her job as a Senior Staff Attorney at the Wayne County Friend of the Court, Detroit, Michigan.

- 15. In rejection of Plaintiff's request of accommodation, Defendant request of accommodation, Defendants refused to place Plaintiff in a position and/or safe space that was open at the time of her request.
- 16. Defendants' failure to make reasonable accommodations for Plaintiff constitutes discrimination against Plaintiff in respect to the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. This conduct constitutes a violation of the ADA, 42 USC 12112 (b) (5) (A), and the Michigan PWDA, stated /pled below.
- 17. Defendants have failed to undertake any good faith efforts, in consultation with Plaintiff, to identify and make reasonable accommodation for Plaintiff.
- 18. Defendants have conducted themselves with malice or with reckless indifference to Plaintiff's federally protected rights.
- 19. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' discrimination on the basis of disability, Plaintiff has suffered lost wages, benefits, and loss of employment opportunities. In addition, Defendants' failure to make reasonable accommodation to Plaintiff caused or continues to cause Plaintiff to suffer substantial damages for

pecuniary losses, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, and other nonpecuniary losses.

PLAINTIFF REQUESTS relief from this court against defendants as follows:

- a. an order of this court reinstating Plaintiff to an appropriate position with Defendants.
- b. an order of this court awarding Plaintiff compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial in this matter and full back pay which far exceeds \$75,000.00.
- c. an order of this court awarding Plaintiff punitive damages in an amount to be determined at the time of trial of this matter.
- d. an award to Plaintiff of attorney fees, costs of litigation, and interest.
- e. an order of this court granting Plaintiff further relief that it deems just and equitable.

COUNT II- AGE DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ELLIOT-LARSEN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

- 20. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 19.
- 21. This Count II is action for age discrimination pursuant to the Michigan Elliot-Larsen Rights Act, MCLA 37.2101 et seq. MSA 3.548 (101) et seq., and the common law of the State of Michigan.

- 22. At all material times, Plaintiff was an employee, and Defendant was her employer, covered by and within the meaning of the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCLA 37.2101 et seq., MSA 3.548 (101) et seq.
- 23. Plaintiff's age was at least one factor that made a difference in defendants' decision to terminate Plaintiff and failures to train, compensate fairly, transfer, and fail to retaliate against Plaintiff, and not remove her from her position of Senior Staff Attorney.
- 24. Had Plaintiff been a younger person, she would not have been terminated and would have been accommodated, and not retaliated against for many complaints of mistreatment.
- 25. Defendant, through their agents, representatives, and employees, was predisposed to discriminate on the basis of age and acted in accordance with that predisposition. Plaintiff was treated inappropriately based on age-failure to provide conditions of employment, requests, duties, assignments based on age, when youngers similarly situated were given such conditions and benefits, accommodations.
- 26. Defendant, through their agents, representatives, and employees, treated Plaintiff differently from similarly situated younger employees in the terms and conditions of employment, based on unlawful consideration of age.

- 27. Defendants actions were intentional in disregard for Plaintiff's rights and sensibilities.
- 28. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful actions, Plaintiff has sustained injuries and damages including, but not limited to, loss of earnings and earning capacity; loss of career opportunities; humiliation and embarrassment; mental and emotional distress; and loss of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life, including the right to pursue gainful occupation of choice.

PLAINTIFF REQUESTS that this court enter judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. compensatory damages in whatever amount above \$75,000 she is found to be entitled.
- b. exemplary damages in whatever amount above \$75,000 she is found to be entitled.
- c. an award of lost wages and the value of fringe benefits, past and future.
- d. an award of interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees.
- e. an order enjoining Defendant, its agents, representatives, and employees from further acts of discrimination or retaliation.
- f. an order reinstating Plaintiff to the position she would have held if defendants had not discriminated.
- g. an order awarding whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of the final judgment.

COUNT III-VIOLATION OF THE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

- 29. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-28.????
- 30. At all material times, Plaintiff performed her job duties with the manner that was satisfactory or better.
- 31. Plaintiff has a history/diagnosis of medical/physical conditions-asthma, severe allergies, and breathing deficient conditions of which defendant was aware. The violations, transgressions and illegalities by defendants, violating the MPWDA mirror the facts and wrongful results described in detail above (for the ADA count).
- 32. At all material times, Plaintiff was an employee, and defendants were her employers, covered by and within the meaning of the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (PDCRA), MCLA 37.1201 et seq. Defendants acts were joint and several, in concert, and each defendant is responsible for all acts of the other.
- 33. At the time of her termination, and for extended time prior, Plaintiff's medical/physical condition was unrelated to her ability to perform the duties of Senior Staff Attorney with defendant and is unrelated to her qualifications for employment as Senior Staff Attorney.

- 34. Plaintiff was discriminated against, within the meaning of the PDCRA, when defendant terminated her because of her medical/physical condition and failed to reasonably accommodate her.
- 35. Plaintiff's medical/physical was a determining factor in defendants' decision to terminate her and preclude her from returning to work.
- 36. The actions of defendants' and its agents, representatives, and employees were intentional in disregard for the rights and sensibilities of Plaintiff.
- 37. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' unlawful discrimination, Plaintiff has sustained injuries and damages, including loss of earnings and earning capacity; loss if fringe and pension benefits; mental and emotional distress; humiliation and embarrassment; loss of career opportunities; and loss of ordinary pleasures of ever day life, including the right to seek and pursue a gainful occupation of choice.

PLAINTIFF REQUESTS that this court enter judgment against Defendant as follows:

1. Legal relief-

a. compensatory damages in whatever amount above \$75,000 she is found to be entitled.

- b. exemplary damages in whatever amount above \$75,000 she is found to be entitled.
- c. an award of lost wages and the value of fringe benefits, past and future.
- d. an award of interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees.
- e. an order enjoining Defendant, its agents, representatives, and employees from further acts of discrimination or retaliation.
- f. an order reinstating Plaintiff to the position she would have held if defendants had not discriminated.
- g. an order awarding whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of the final judgment.

2. Equitable relief-

- a. an order placing Plaintiff in the position she would have held had there been no violation of her rights.
- b. an award of interests, costs, and reasonable attorney fees.
- c. an order enjoining defendants from further acts of discrimination or retaliation.
- d. whatever other relief appears appropriate at the time of the final judgment.

COUNT IV-VIOLATION OF THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

- 38. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-37.
- 39. This is an action for defendants' violations of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), 29 USC 2602 et seq.
- 40. This court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 USC 1331.
- 41. Plaintiff is an eligible employee as defined by the FMLA.

- 42. Defendant is an employer as defined by the FMLA.
- 43. Plaintiff had medical/physical conditions-asthma, severe allergies, breathing deficient condition, requiring medical leave said allowed, requested leaves were denied, interfered with and Plaintiff was retaliated against for requesting same.
- 44. Plaintiff notified her employer of her need to take time off for treatment, and her request was illegally denied, interfered with, or Plaintiff was retaliated against. Plaintiff should have been returned or kept in her appropriate job.
- 45. In failing to restore Plaintiff to her previous position, or an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment, Defendant violated Plaintiff's rights under the FMLA 29 USC 2602 et seq.
- 46. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff has suffered lost wages, benefits, and loss of employment opportunities and non-economic losses, costs and attorney fees.

PLAINTIFF REQUESTS judgment against defendants as follows:

- 1. Legal relief-
- a. compensatory damages in whatever amount she is found to be entitled.

b. liquidated damages in whatever amount she is found to be entitled.

c. an award of interest, costs, and reasonable attorney fees and expert witness

fees.

d. All defendants acts and transgressions call for direct liability, joint ans

several liability, respondeat superior liability, vicarious liability, and for

conspiracy to violate Plaintiff's described rights.

Equitable relief-

a. an order reinstating Plaintiff to an appropriate position with the Defendant.

b. an injunction prohibiting any further acts of wrongdoing, discrimination, or

retaliation.

c. whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of final

judgment.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 6, 2023

/s/Paul C. Louisell

Paul C. Louisell P27152

Attorney for Plaintiff

Paul C. Louisell PLLC 22805 Kelly Road

Eastpointe, Michigan 48022

586-859-0118

Paul@louisellPLLC.com

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff, SHELLY ANN-MARIE PAYNE, by and through her attorney, Paul C. Louisell, here by demands a trial by jury.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Paul C. Louisell

Paul C. Louisell P27152 Attorney for Plaintiff Paul C. Louisell PLLC 22805 Kelly Road Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 586-859-0118 Paul@louisellPLLC.com

Dated: February 6, 2023